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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/083,926

02/27/2002

Lixiao Wang

1001.2332101

4859

28075 7590 07/06/2010
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 NICOLLET AVENUE
SUITE 800
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420

EXAMINER

SEVERSON, RYAN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3731

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/06/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/083,926	Applicant(s) WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner Ryan J. Severson	Art Unit 3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-34,43,73-78 and 82-95 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-18,20-34,43,73-78 and 82-95 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-29, 31, 33, 34, 43, 73-78, 82-84 and 88-95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel (4,796,629) in view of Vigil et al. (5,336,234).** Grayzel discloses a balloon catheter including a balloon (40) that has striped portions (1050) encapsulated therein. The striped portions run the length of the balloon, and are tapered at the ends so that they conform to the shape of the balloon (see column 6, lines 14-23). Because they conform to the shape of the balloon, they will be substantially straight in the collapsed configuration, and at least slightly deformed in the expanded configuration due to the tapered portions of the balloon. The striped portions are parallel to the axis of the balloon and are evenly spaced circumferentially about the balloon. However, Grayzel fails to disclose cutting elements attached to the balloon. Attention is drawn to Vigil et al., who teach the use of cutting elements that are disposed on a balloon (see figures 2-4) to further assist in dilation of a stenotic portion of a vessel. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the cutting elements of Vigil et al. on the balloon of Grayzel to assist in dilation of a stenotic portion of a vessel.

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3. Examiner notes that Vigil et al. shows the claimed furrow/flap configuration (see figure 2).

4. Further, the combination of Grayzel and Vigil et al. does not teach the cutting elements be centered over the striped portions. However, it has been held that choosing from a finite number of solutions to obtain a predictable result is a rationale for determining obviousness. *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. (KSR)*, 550 U.S. ___, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007). It can be seen that there are only a finite number of positions the blades can be placed on the exterior surface of the balloon, with one of the various positions being the blades centered over the striped portions. Therefore, it would have been obvious one of ordinary skill in the art to have the cutting elements centered over the striped portions since this is one of a limited number of possible positions for the cutting elements to be located relative to the striped portions.

5. Regarding claims 6-9, 11-13, and 23-30, the combination of Grayzel and Vigil et al. does not disclose a specific distensibility of the striped portion relative to the balloon. However, it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

6. Regarding claims 10 and 20, the claims are written in product-by-process form. It has been held that even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art,

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the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process. *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985)

7. Regarding claims 88-93, Grayzel discloses the material of the striped portions can vary (see column 5, lines 17-19) if desired. Further, the combination set forth above includes 4 cutting elements from Vigil and 6 striped portions from Grayzel, leaving some of the striped portions without a cutting element centered over it.

8. **Claims 30 and 85-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel (4,796,629) in view of Vigil et al. (5,336,234) as applied to claims 1, 14 and 43 above, and further in view of Roychowdhury (5,587,125).**

9. Regarding claim 30, the combination of Grayzel and Vigil et al. does not disclose the striped portion is a liquid crystal polymer. Attention is drawn to Roychowdhury, who teaches that liquid crystal polymers may be used in balloons to provide exceptional tensile qualities (see column 5, lines 8-25). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the striped portions of the combination of Grayzel and Vigil et al. of liquid crystal polymer, as taught by Roychowdhury, to provide exceptional tensile qualities to the balloon.

10. Regarding claims 85-87, the combination of Grayzel and Vigil et al. does not disclose the first material (the balloon) comprises a compatibilizing material. Attention is again drawn to Roychowdhury, who teaches the use of compatibilizing materials to help the balloon bond to the catheter body (see column 5, lines 26-37). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

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to use the compatibilizing material of Roychowdhury with the balloon of the combination of Grayzel and Vigil et al. to enhance the bond between the balloon and the catheter.

11. **Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grayzel (4,796,629) in view of Vigil et al. (5,336,234) as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Spears (5,092,841).** The combination of Grayzel and Vigil et al. does not disclose the balloon comprises an inorganic additive. Attention is drawn to Spears, who teaches the use of an inorganic salt drug to provide treatment to the vessel (see column 7, lines 56-62). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the inorganic additive of Spears on the balloon of the combination of Grayzel and Vigil et al. to provide treatment to the vessel.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed 3/23/10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

13. Applicant argues the striped portion of Grayzel only extends through the central portion of the balloon and not the tapered portions or sleeves. However, the section of the specification that applicant references (see the bottom of page 10 of 15 in the response filed 3/23/10) is drawn to a different embodiment than that used to reject the claims. Grayzel at column 6, lines 5-7 recite the stiffening member shown in figure 10 has parallel edges in the central portion of the stiffening member which is intended to make contact with the wall of the vessel being treated. This makes clear that the tapered portions of the stiffening member are not in the portion of the balloon that

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contacts the vessel wall. Since only the central, cylindrical portion of the balloon contacts the vessel wall, it is clear that the tapered portions of the stiffening member have to extend into the tapered and sleeve portions of the balloon.

14. This is further supported at column 6, lines 18-23 of Grayzel, which states the ends are tapered so they are less rigid and more able to conform to the shape of the balloon at the end of the stiffener. If the stiffener were only in the constant-diameter cylindrical portion, the tapering would not be needed because there would be no shape the stiffener would need to conform to. Therefore, Examiner maintains his position that the specification of Grayzel makes clear that stiffener 1050 as shown in figure 10 extends through the entire length of the balloon instead of only the cylindrical portion, as asserted by applicant.

Conclusion

15. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

16. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan J. Severson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3142. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30-5:00.

18. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

19. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ryan J Severson/
Examiner, Art Unit 3731
7/1/10

/Anhtuan T. Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731
7/1/10